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In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1-28. (Canceled)
29. (Withdrawn) A recombinant bacterial host cell comprising a deletion of the thioesterase domain of *pikAIV* gene.
30. (Withdrawn) The recombinant host cell of claim 29 further comprising a deletion in the *pikAIV* gene.
31. (Currently Amended) An isolated and purified DNA molecule comprising consisting of a DNA segment comprising a *pikA* promoter having at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to a DNA fragment corresponding to a nucleotide sequence between an *EcoRV* site and *EcoRI* site in SEQ ID NO:5.
32. (Currently Amended) An expression cassette comprising a *pikA* DNA segment having a promoter operably linked to a DNA molecule comprising a DNA segment comprising an open reading frame or a portion thereof, wherein the DNA segment has at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to a DNA fragment corresponding to a nucleotide sequence between an *EcoRV* site and *EcoRI* site in SEQ ID NO:5.
33. (Currently Amended) The expression cassette of claim 32 wherein the DNA segment molecule encodes the a thioesterase domain of *pikAIV* having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:37.
34. (Currently Amended) The expression cassette of claim 32 wherein the DNA segment molecule encodes the a thioesterase II domain of *pikAIV* having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:43.